

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 28 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 26 through 28 are newly added in this amendment.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of December 17, 2004.

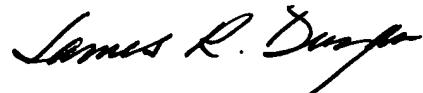
Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 through 25 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 32 of U.S. Patents 6,788,993; 6,122,563; 6,529,793 and 5,844,803. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing terminal disclaimers to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimers should not be construed as acquiescence in the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached are the terminal disclaimers and accompanying fees.

Applicants assert that claims 1 through 28 are clearly allowable.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 1 through 28 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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